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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 16, 1942.

CAB

Dear Ken:

Thanks very much for your thoughtful letter of the 14th.

The write-up on the Patrol sounds like a project, and I think you are doing a fine thing in undertaking it while the early days are within sight and developments are taking place that come within your knowledge. It sounds as though Collier's Editors should look at the material when you have shaped it.

Attached is copy of the chronology to replace the previous lineup you suspect reposes in the NAA file.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Tom*

Thomas H. Beck.

Capt. Kendall K. Hoyt,  
Office of Civilian Defense,  
Washington, D. C.



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CIVIL AVIATION SERVICES  
CHRONOLOGY OF ORIGIN AND PROGRESS

Jan. 22, 1942

1941

- Apr. 22 Letter written and presented by Thomas H. Beck to President Roosevelt briefly outlining plan for utilization of civilian pilots in national defense and urging its adoption.
- May -- Mr. Beck contacted Mr. Guy Gannett, Portland, Maine, publisher, and showed Mr. Gannett copy of his letter to the President.
- June 1-5 Mr. Gannett left National Aeronautic Association convention in Louisville, Ky., ahead of time in order to see Mr. F.H. LaGuardia and present the plan to him in New York City.
- June 12 Letter from Kendall K. Hoyt, of NAA, to W.E. Blanchard, asking Mr. Beck be advised that Mr. LaGuardia had formed a committee to submit plan, consisting of Messrs. Beck, Gannett and Gill Robb Wilson (President of NAA). First meeting scheduled for June 17th.
- June 12 Letter from LaGuardia to Mr. Beck formally appointing committee as above.
- June 17 Meeting of Messrs. Beck, Gannett and Wilson in Board Room of Crowell-Collier Publishing Co., 250 Park Avenue, New York City, at which a tentative plan was drafted. (Kendall K. Hoyt also attended and took minutes - see entry June 19).
- June 17 Mr. Beck wrote Mr. LaGuardia advising that meeting had been held and plan drafted; the plan to be presented after further study and research.
- June 19 Letter from Hoyt enclosing minutes of June 17th meeting.
- June 20 Research report from R.A. Robinson of Crowell-Collier giving data requested by Mr. Beck. Copy sent to Wilson.
- June 25 Messrs. Beck and Wilson presented plan to LaGuardia at Washington, D.C.
- July 9 Messrs. Beck and Wilson in Washington to see LaGuardia, but 3:00 PM appointment cancelled at last minute due to LaGuardia being called before Government committee, on another matter.
- July 11 Letter from Mr. Beck to President Roosevelt on another subject, mentions plan and progress, and reminds that it stemmed from Beck's original letter to the President of April 22nd.
- July 11 Research report sent to Gannett by N.A. Cathcart, for use in further report.
- July 30 Letter from H.L. Caravati, Asst. Director of Civilian Conservation Corps, enclosing pamphlet on CCC defense activities. Sent to Wilson.
- July 31 Letter from Mr. Beck to LaGuardia asking what has happened to report submitted by the committee, and urging prompt action. Also mentions report from CCC indicating they have men and equipment which could be used to build landing strips and air fields.
- Aug. 4 Letter from Kendall K. Hoyt reporting on talk with Army people concerning Army's organizing private pilots and planes

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- Aug. 5 Mr. Beck's reply to Hoyt's letter of Aug. 4th stating he does not believe it feasible that the Army organize civilian pilots due to lack of time, etc.
- Aug. 6 Letter from LaGuardia admitting delay in considering plan and promising early action.
- Aug. 8 Letter from Hoyt reporting that Mr. Beck's letter to LaGuardia dated July 31st had apparently secured results, because LaGuardia had appointed Reed G. Landis of his office (Office of Civilian Defense, Washington) to work on the plan.
- Aug. 12 Letter from LaGuardia reporting real progress under Landis. Asks opinion on idea of placing "State Wings" units under State Guard supervision. (Mr. Beck out of town when this letter was received, and it was therefore relayed to Wilson - see entry below at August 14th).
- Aug. 14 LaGuardia's letter to Mr. Beck of Aug. 12th relayed to Gill Robb Wilson, asking that he reply to question.
- Aug. 22 \*Telegram from LaGuardia calling meeting for August 25th at 3:00 PM in N.Y.
- Aug. 23 Copy of letter Wilson sent to LaGuardia in answer to the latter's letter of August 12th to Mr. Beck. Wilson's opinion is that proposal for placing State Wings under State Guard units is not feasible.
- Aug. 25 \*Meeting not held. Mr. Beck was in West, and Wilson, to whom telegram was relayed, was also away and secretary could not reach him.
- Sept. 4 Meeting held with LaGuardia in Washington, 1:00 PM.
- Sept. 11 Letter to LaGuardia regarding use of CCC for building landing strips and air fields. (See letter of July 31st, which briefly mentions same subject).
- Sept. 22 Reply to above letter from LaGuardia stating that plan for using CCC has been taken up for discussion with the Civil Aeronautics Administration.
- #Oct. 3 Letter from Reed G. Landis with copies of letters sent to the Secretaries of War, Navy and Commerce outlining decision reached by the Office of Civilian Defense regarding Civil Air Patrol, which is characterized as "Step Number One" in the program for civil aeronautics in defense.
- Oct. 9 Mr. Beck's reply to Landis letter of October 3rd, expressing hope that as soon as the first step is completed other steps will be taken up, particularly the teaching of fundamentals of aviation in public schools.
- Oct. 9 Letter from Landis enclosing letter from David H. Connolly, Administrator of Civil Aeronautics to the effect that the latter is taking up the CCC suggestion with the CCC. *Donald*

# This may be taken as the date on which the plan was officially adopted. No further correspondence of import on the subject is in our files, the matter having then been prosecuted by Gill Robb Wilson.

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April 22, 1941

TO THE PRESIDENT:

A plan for increasing defense and war-consciousness and for enlisting the youth of the United States in aviation.

(1) Have the Bureau of Education supply textbooks and model airplanes (both rubber and engine powered) to all elementary schools in the United States and prescribe a course in model flying with contests held bi-monthly.

(2) Have the Bureau of Education buy and supply at least one glider, disassembled, to each high school in the United States, together with textbooks and a planned course in glider flying.

(3) Have the National Youth Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps and all Civilian Pilot Training students who have not been accepted by the Army and Navy organized into a youth aviation patrol. The Government would furnish light aircraft (Piper, Taylorcraft, Aeronca, Luscombe type ships retailing for around \$1,500, built with fabric and using very little aluminum) to these corps for use in patrol, observation and two-way radio training.

Units could be organized on both coasts and the borders. I assume that at least six or eight boys could be trained per ship and could work in shifts covering pre-determined areas. Some of these boys could be trained as observers and camera men, others as pilots, and still others as two-way radio men. "Hams" on the ground could act as relay stations and daily reports would be made to reserve officers designated for the purpose. In this way the boys would be trained and kept in the air, their licenses maintained.

All this aviation training would lead to an immediate consciousness of aviation throughout the United States and would, of course, put the youth of the land at work as "salesmen" for all-out defense and preparedness.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas H. Beck

To the President  
Washington, D.C.

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(Presented personally by Mr. Beck)

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